

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 001262

67

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 L-03 /206 R

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P 032312Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECAFE, OCON

SUBJECT: ECAFE: SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON TRADE

1. DELEGATE CLARENCE S. SIEGEL IS CARRYING APPROVED SETS OF POSITION PAPERS FOR SUBJECT MEETING. ONLY MISSING PAPER IS FOR AGENDA ITEM NINE, TRADE DIVISION WORK PROGRAM, FOR WHICH DOCUMENTATION ARRIVED ONLY VERY RECENTLY. FOLLOWING IS APPROVED POSITION PAPER FOR THAT ITEM AND DELEGATION SHOULD DRAW ON IT FOR APPROPRIATE COMMENTS.

2. WORK PROGRAM IS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF RECENT YEARS AND, THEREFORE, HAS MANY OF SAME ADVANTAGES AND DRAWBACKS. OVERALL EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING REGIONAL TRADE FITS COMMENDABLY INTO OUR IDEA OF WHAT TRADE DIVISION OF A REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION SHOULD BE DOING. IT IS IN SOME SPECIFIC PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE HAVING TO DO WITH CLEARING AND PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CENTER FOR

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PAGE 02 STATE 001262

SHIPPING INFORMATION AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION UNIT, AND

IN EXPANDED PROGRAM FOR TRADE PROMOTION CENTER THAT WE BELIEVE WORK PROGRAM IS TOO EXPANSIVE. COMMON FACTOR IN THESE QUESTIONABLE PROGRAMS IS OVERLY AMBITIOUS APPROACH TOWARD STARTING NEW PROJECTS AND EXPANDING OLD ONES. TRADE DIVISION WOULD INSTEAD BENEFIT FROM REDUCED AND MORE SHARPLY FOCUSED WORK PROGRAM, WITH DECISION ON

CONTENTS OF THAT REDUCED PROGRAM REFLECTING (A) MAJORITY VIEWS OF REGIONAL MEMBERS AND (B) POSSIBILITY OF MAKING USEFUL CONTRIBUTION IN TIME ALLOTTED.

3. AS FOR WORK PROGRAM FORMAT, PRESENTATION CONTINUES TO BE OVERLY COMPLEX AND NOT CLEAR TO AVERAGE READER. ECAFE SECRETARIAT COULD BENEFIT FROM EXAMINING FORMAT OF NEW ECLA WORK PROGRAM. ESPECIALLY QUESTIONABLE IS FACT ALMOST EVERY WORK PROJECT IS GIVEN AN "A" PRIORITY, A SYSTEM THAT ADDS TO OVERALL IMPRESSION OF LACK OF USEFUL FOCUS. DELEGATION SHOULD URGE THAT PRIORITIES BE MORE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND FULL USE MADE OF A, B AND C.

4. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS OR REFERENCES ON WORK PROGRAM'S NINE GENERAL PROJECTS:

1A6: 2-0.1: NO PROBLEMS. SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE HIGH PRIORITY.

1A6: 2-0.2: SEE POSITION PAPER D-878/73 REV. 1. AND D-875/73 REV. 2.

1A6: 2-0.3: SEE POSITION PAPERS D-875/73 REV. 2 AND D-876/73. DETAILED PROJECTS ON INSURANCE ARE ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SPREADING WORK PROGRAM TOO THINLY.

1A6: 2-0.4: SEE POSITION PAPER D-876/73. THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CUT BACK. IN MANY SUB-PROJECTS THERE IS SERIOUS QUESTION OF OVERLAP WITH RELATED UNCTAD WORK AND NO CERTAINTY THAT COORDINATION WILL BE SUFFICIENT. IN ADDITION MAN MONTHS FOR THIS PROJECT JUMP FROM 6 TO 42, AN INCREASE FAR LARGER THAN THAT FOR ANY OTHER PROJECT AND ONE WHICH RAISES QUESTION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 001262

OF WHETHER RAPID EXPANSION OF THIS PROJECT DESIRABLE AND, IF SO, HOW FAST EXPANSION CAN BENEFICIALLY BE CARRIED OUT.

1A6: 2-0.5 AND LA6: 2-0.6: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS HERE, THERE MUST BE CONTINUING EFFORT TO HARMONIZE THIS PROJECT WITH UNCTAD WORK. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

SUB-PROJECT.

1A6: 2-0.7: SEE POSITION PAPER D-880/73 REV. 1.
SUB-PROJECTS (I), (II) AND (III) DUPLICATE UNCTAD
ACTIVITIES AND (IV) DOES SAME FOR UNDP-UNCTAD PROJECTS.
ECAFE SHOULD RE-EXAMINE THESE PROJECTS AND ATTEMPT TO
ELIMINATE THEM OR REDUCE THEIR SCOPE.

1A6: 2-0.8: SEE POSITION PAPER D-879/73 REV. 1. WE
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER SUB-PROJECT (IV) REFERS ONLY
TO ECAFE-STATE OF WASHINGTON CONFERENCE (SEE CONTINGENCY
PAPER D-885/73) OR TO SOMETHING IN ADDITION.

1A6: 2-0.9: THIS PROJECT SEEMS UNREALISTIC IN SCOPE
AND SHOULD BE REDUCED TO MORE MANAGEABLE SIZE. SUB-
PROJECTS HAVING TO DO WITH SHIP BUILDING PUZZLE US SINCE
REGION ALREADY HAS IMPRESSIVE SHIP BUILDING INDUSTRIES
IN JAPAN, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN, KOREA. IF SATISFACTORY
EXPLANATION NOT MADE, SHIP BUILDING ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE
REDUCED. ALSO SEE POSITION PAPER D-880/73 REV. 1 ON
POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIAN SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT
CENTER. ALTHOUGH THAT TITLE IS NOT USED IN THIS PROJECT,
SUB-PROJECTS SOUND LIKE WHAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION WOULD
DO. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW THIS PROJECT
RELATES TO THAT POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION AND TO COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION. RUSH

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